

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LUANDA

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TAGS: PFOR UN AO

SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE BY MPLA REPRESENTATIVE

ELISIO FIGUEIREDO, CALLING HIMSELF SPOKESMAN FOR THE MPLO,  
PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF ANGOLA, FEBRUARY 4,  
GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN AND MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

QTE

NOTING THAT FEBURARY 4, 1975 REPRESENTS THE 14TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE ANGOLA NATIONAL STRUGGLE AGAINST PORTUGUESE COLONIZATION  
MR. FIGUEIRDEO SAID GREAT IMPORTANCE IS ATTACHED TO THE DATE.  
TODAY ALSO MARKED THE THIRD DAY AFTER THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT  
WAS PROCLAIMED IN ANGLOA, AND THE NEW ROLE OF THE THREE  
COOPERATING POLITICAL PARTIES.

HE SAID HIS PARTY HOPES THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN MOMBASA AND  
PORTUGAL WITH THE OTHER TWO PARTIES WILL BE RESPECTED BY  
ALL CONCERNED. HE IS CONVINCED IT WILL BE RESPECTED AND LEAD  
TO FULFILLMENT OF TOTAL INDEPENDENCE ON NOVEMBER 11, 1975.  
HE DESCRIBED THE TRANSITIONAL AGREEMENT AS "COMMON PLATFORM"  
PRIOR TO A NEW CONSITUTION AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

MR. FIGUEIRDEO SAID HE IS 34 YEARS OLD, IS THE OFFICIAL  
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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLES LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF ANGOLA

(MPLA); THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT YET HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS AT THE UN; THAT DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION AND DEFENSE ARE STILL IN THE HANDS OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO FULL INDEPENDENCE. HE STRESSED THAT "IT IS QUITE CLEAR THERE ARE ONLY THREE LEGITIMATE PARTIES, THE MPLA, UNITA AND FMLA" IN ANGOLA, AND ANY OTHERS "ARE NOT TO BE CONSIDERED GIVEN ENTITIES." HE SAID HIS PARTY DOES NOT FEEL CHALLENGED BY THE OTHER TWO PARTIES CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE, ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZES THERE MAY BE "SOME DIFFICULTIES" BETWEEN THEM AS FULL INDEPENDENCE APPROACHES. BUT HE IS CONFIDENT ALL THREE WILL WORK FOR A COMMON POLICY THAT BENEFITS ALL THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE.

ASKED IN WHAT SPECIFIC CAPACITY HE HAD COME TO NEW YORK, FIGUEIRDEO SAID HE HAD BEEN APPOINTED THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLES LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, BUT THAT HE REPRESENTS ONLY MPLA, NOT THE OTHER TWO PARTIES. HE WOULD NOT PREDICT WHAT THE FUTURE POLICIES OF THE OTHER TWO PARTIES MIGHT BE, BUT BASED ON THE AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE THREE, AND THE MUTUAL RESPECT FOR THE UN CHARTER, HE HOPES FOR THE BEST, STRESSING THAT IN TERMS OF MPLA AND UNITA HE COULD NOT SPEAK "ON THEIR BEHALF AT THIS TIME."

HE SAID THE MPLA IS IN THE PROCESS OF OPENING AN OFFICE HERE, BUT IT IS NOT OPEN YET. HE WILL INFORM CORRESPONDENTS ADDRESS AND TEL. NO. AS SOON AS IT IS.

ASKED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE UNITY BETWEEN THE THREE PARTIES, HE SAID HE FRANKLY DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER THE OTHER TWO PARTIES WOULD SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN, BUT THAT "OUR UNITY IS BASED ON A COMMON PLATFORM THAT WE REACHED IN MOMBASA AND PORTUGAL WHICH FACILITATES THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT." HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT AFTER INDEPENDENCE WOULD APPLY FOR UN MEMBERSHIP. HE SAID HIS PARTY IS HERE "TO BRING YOU INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS" BETWEEN NOW AND INDEPENDENCE. "THE MAIN GOAL IS TO MOVE FORWARD AND "IN THIS CONTEXT WE INTEND TO MOVE ON DESPITE DISAGREEMENTS OF THE PAST." HE SAID THAT EVEN BEFORE MOMBASA SOME AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE THREE PARTIES, MPLA, FMLA, UNITA. HE SAID IS PART OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE THREE TO HOLD ELECTIONS AND HE EXPECTS THEM TO BE HELD "IN THE MONTHS TO

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COME BEFORE NOVEMBER 11."

HE SAID THE THREE PARTIES WILL RESPECT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ZAIRE AND THE CONGO AND "HOPE THEY DO LIKEWISE TO US."

FIGUEIRDEO SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WEEKS AHEAD; THAT THE ARTICLES OF THE AGREED CHARTER SPECIFY SETTING UP FINANCE, INFORMATION AND OTHER INTERIM MINISTRIES, AND

HE FORESEES "STRENGTHENING OF THESE AGREEMENTS." AS TO INITIAL FINANCING, HE SAID THE THREE POLITICAL PARTIES TOGETHER WITH PORTUGAL WILL DECIDE TOGETHER, BUT THE POLICY IS NOT YET DEFINED. ASKED WHAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE WILL BE TOWARD COMPANIES EXPLOITING ANGOLA RESOURCES, SPECIFICALLY OIL, HE SAID IT WILL BE THE POLICY UPON ATTAINING INDEPENDENCE TO SIT DOWN WITH THE COMPANIES AND "TRACE A NEW POLICY. WE HOPE POLICIES WILL NOT BE THE SAME AS UNDER PORTUGUESE RULE." THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE DID NOT BENEFIT FROM WHAT THE COMPANIES WERE DOING, HE SAID, AND WHILE NOT UNDERESTIMATING THE DIFFICULTIES "WE MAY ENCOUNTER," HE IS CONVINCED " WE MUST SIT DOWN WITH THEM TO DECIDE A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE."

FIGUEIRDEO SAID THE NEW INDEPENDENT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE AN ARMED FORCE, INITIALLY COMPOSED OF 8000 MEN FROM EACH OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES PLUS 24,000 MEN PROVIDED BY PORTUGAL BUT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE NEW CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. ASKED WHO WAS FINANCING HIS TRIP TO NEW YORK, HE SAID "NOBODY IS FINANCED US AS YET, BUT WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER NOW." ASKED WHAT WHITE REPRESENTATION WILL REMAIN IN THE PARTIES, HE SAID THAT MANY WHITES HAD PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN ACHIEVING ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE; HOW MANY WHITES CHOOSE TO STAY OR LEAVE "I DON'T KNOW." HE HOPES THOSE BORN IN ANGOLA WILL STAY AND THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED ANGOLAN, AND THOSE BORN IN PORTUGAL CAN ALSO ATTAIN CITIZENSHIP." UNQTE BENNETT

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